

**ALCOHOL &  
DRUGS  
DON'T MIX  
WITH  
BOAT  
OPERATION**



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If you are convicted of operating a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the court will order you to take a boating safety course. You may be sentenced to jail for up to 6 months and assessed fines of up to \$1,000. A subsequent conviction of operating under the influence within 7 years of a prior conviction could result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and a jail term of up to 1 year.

The effects of alcohol are enhanced by marine stressors including sun, glare, wind, fatigue, and engine vibration/noise. At least 60% of those who die in alcohol-related boating accidents are passengers. Alcohol also greatly increases the effects of hypothermia. Boating and Waterways recommends that neither boat operators nor passengers drink alcoholic beverages while boating.

